

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today commemorated the life of James T. Molloy, the last Doorkeeper in the House of Representatives and proud Buffalo son, by inserting the following statement into the Congressional Record:

M. Speaker

I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant James T. Molloy who served as the last Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, a man I'm proud to have called a mentor and friend.

Americans knew him as the bellowing voice we'd be waiting for at the start of the annual State of the Union address; the voice that would yell over the hundreds assembled in the House chamber, "Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States." That first introduction came for President Gerald Ford in 1975 only a few weeks after his appointment.

I was privileged to know the man behind the voice, the man who mentored hundreds of members of Congress and staffers who passed through his doorway and the man who was beloved by everyone in this chamber.

Jimmy was incredibly helpful to me when I first came to Congress 24 years ago. He provided a good listening ear and sage advice. Put simply he was an extraordinary human being and he had no bigger fans than those of us from Western New York.

As the proud son of a South Buffalo firefighter, he put Buffalo on the map on a daily basis.

One of Buffalo's other proud sons, Tim Russert, described Jimmy as "a good man, who knew everybody and was always proud of taking care of his own."

"I'll accept that, I like that," Jimmy responded when he heard the description with the humility that personified his rustbelt roots.

In 1994, Jim's last duty was to introduce the new Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Since then, there's been no Doorkeeper of the House. I believe no one could possibly follow him. He has been missed in this House and will certainly be remembered fondly by everyone that knew him. He made Buffalo proud and the lives he touched richer. For that, we are all thankful.